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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/904
31 October 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 31 OCTOBER 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter of today's date from H.E. Mr. Muhamed Sacirbey, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, addressed to you.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

95-32975 (E) 311095 011195

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Annex

Letter dated 31 October 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

In April and May 1993, by its resolutions 819 (1993) and 824 (1993), the Security Council declared Srebrenica and Zepa "safe areas" in order to secure the safety of the population therein. In July 1995, the "safe areas" of Srebrenica and Zepa were overrun, with thousands of innocent people being massacred, while the rest were subject to other crimes, including rape and ethnic cleansing. Properly and courageously, the Government of the Netherlands has undertaken an inquiry concerning the response of its own troops and authorities as well as the role of the international community as a whole. The United Nations, in particular the Security Council, must exhibit also the necessary responsibility and courage and undertake its own review. If not for the sake of the thousands of victims, then the Council should undertake this review for the sake of its own credibility by determining why its own resolutions were undermined.

In particular, I call the Security Council's attention to the report of the Netherlands Government, which should raise serious questions about the conduct of United Nations-mandated officials. In addition, the Council should pay special heed to glaring contradictions in the information provided by some, including most senior officials of the United Nations Protection Force to the Council.

Srebrenica and Zepa happened during the Security Council's watch. With all due respect, this unprecedented crime requires special attention and action by the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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LETTER DATED 31 OCTOBER 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter of today's date, from H.E. Mr. Muhamed Sacirbey, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, addressed to you.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its attachment as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 31 October 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

While the War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, other proper authorities and, hopefully, the Security Council will investigate various aspects of the fall of and massacres surrounding Srebrenica and Zepa, it is essential that the Council now remind all that it is a violation of international humanitarian law not only to commit but also to cover up facts of war crimes. In particular, shielding perpetrators, concealing evidence or even not making relevant information available is acquiescing or abetting in the crimes.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1995/906
31 October 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 30 OCTOBER 1995 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA AND TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint Declaration adopted at the Trilateral Summit Meeting held in New York on 23 October 1995 among the Presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Turkey (see annex).

We would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mr. Ivan Zdravko MISIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

(Signed) Mr. Mario NOBILO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Croatia

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Turkey

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Annex

Trilateral New York Declaration of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Turkey

The three Heads of State, His Excellency Alija Izetbegovic, President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Franjo Tudjman, President of the Republic of Croatia, and His Excellency Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey, met in New York on 23 October 1995 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations to hold trilateral consultations at the summit level.

The Presidents reviewed the latest developments for achieving a peaceful settlement to the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They lauded the efforts of the international community, noting with particular appreciation the American initiative which has progressed to holding proximity talks in the United States of America at the end of October with the leaders of the three countries concerned. They reiterated their support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and for a pluralistic and democratic society of the three peoples and the "others" of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They also expressed deep concern for the continuing occupation of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Srijem, and urged an early and peaceful settlement.

The Presidents emphasized their commitment to the Contact Group peace proposal and the Agreed Basic Principles of New York and Geneva and reiterated their firm belief that the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina should provide the basis for a peaceful solution to the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Presidents reaffirmed that trilateral consultation and cooperation mechanism among Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Turkey is a major contribution to the peace process and to the building of stability and cooperation in the region. They welcomed the signing of the Agreement on the Establishment of the Mission of Goodwill and Joint Police Forces for Action "Return" as a concrete result of the trilateral mechanism. They reiterated their call for the inclusion of Turkey into the expanded International Contact Group.

The Presidents welcomed the offer of legal assistance by Turkey to the democratization process in general and preparation of constitutional arrangements in particular of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Presidents further expressed their conviction that mutual recognition of all States in the region within the internationally recognized borders would pave the way for the normalization of the situation in the region.

The Presidents underlined the vital importance of economic assistance for the reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and humanitarian aid for the rehabilitation of all refugees and displaced persons returning to their homes following the peace settlement. To this end, the Presidents decided to establish a joint economic committee to coordinate their activities and

cooperation in this field. They also expressed their appreciation for the establishment of the Assistance Mobilization Group within the Organization of the Islamic Conference for economic and humanitarian assistance. The Presidents of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia reiterated their support to Turkey as a coordinator of this Group.

The Presidents reaffirmed the determination and political will of their respective countries to strengthen trilateral cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia and Turkey in various fields.